

Claims

I claim:

1 1. A method for treating a patient suffering from an autoimmune disorder,
2 said method comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody
3 composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises anti-idiotypic antibodies,
4 or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and inhibit self-reactive
5 pathogenic autoantibodies present in the patient.

1 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disorder is
2 characterized by the destruction of patients' cells by autoantibodies.

1 3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are
2 immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on antibodies associated with an
3 autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising systemic lupus
4 erythematosus, masthenia gravis, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.

1 4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are
2 immunoreactive with anti-DNA antibodies.

1 5. The method, according to claim 4, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are
2 immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on said anti-DNA antibodies,
3 wherein said idiotypic determinants are selected from the group consisting of F4, 3L,
4 8.12, and 16/6.

1 6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said antibody composition is
2 administered intravenously.

1 7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein said antibody composition is
2 administered as a dextrose saline solution.

1 8. A method for preparing an antibody composition comprising anti-idiotypic
2 antibodies, comprising the steps of:

3 (a) contacting pooled gamma globulin with a solid phase substrate, said
4 substrate comprising an idiotypic determinant of a self-reactive pathogenic
5 autoantibody, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies present in said pooled gamma
6 globulin bind to said idiotypic determinant; and

7 (b) eluting said anti-idiotypic antibodies bound to said idiotypic determinant.

1 9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant is
2 expressed on an antibody coupled to said substrate

1 10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said antibody coupled to said
2 substrate expresses anti-DNA idiotypic determinants selected from the group
3 consisting of F4, 3I, 8.12 and 16/6.

1 11. The method according to claim 8 further comprising washing said
2 substrate with a suitable wash buffer prior to eluting in Step (b).

1 12. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said substrate comprises a
2 plurality of idiotypic determinants of self-reactive pathogenic autoantibody.

1 13. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant
2 comprises a synthetic peptide that duplicates an idiotypic determinant present on a
3 self-reactive autoantibody.

17. The antibody composition, according to claim 16, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on said anti-DNA antibodies, wherein said idiotypic determinants are selected from the group consisting of F4, 3L, 8.12, and 16/6.